

**The original documents are located in Box 15, folder “Ford Speeches - Public Employee Strike Insert” of the Michael Raoul-Duval Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Michael Raoul-Duval donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

SPEECH INSERT - PUBLIC EMPLOYEE STRIKES (SAN FRANCISCO)

We must bring into better balance the relationship between the services provided by Federal, State and local governments and the amount of tax dollars we spend on them. I have taken steps at the Federal level to reduce the size of government and make it more responsive to the real needs of the people.

However, one of the most important aspects of making government responsive is to ensure that the people that must pay for services rendered by public employees have a direct say in what services should be provided and under what conditions.

Some of the Democrats in Congress have suggested national legislation which would give State and local public employees the right to strike. I can think of nothing more destructive of the process by which property owners and other taxpayers control their destiny.



We have seen recent examples (e.g., San Francisco) in which the property taxpayer has taken a firm position against increased government spending. It is important that taxpayers at the local and State levels retain absolute control over their own city and State government, and that Washington, D.C. not intervene in this process.

My objective of imposing better control over the cost and effectiveness of government will be totally defeated if Congress begins to preempt the right of local citizens to govern their own public employees. As long as I am President, this will not happen because not only would I immediately veto such legislation, but I would actively fight it at every stage of the legislative process.

Many other actions I have taken since I became President are directed at increasing the power of each local taxpayer to control his government. We are making the Federal government more responsive to individual citizen control. By revenue sharing, I am giving more authority to State and local governments, and thus the people have a greater say in how their tax dollars are expended. Also, revenue sharing takes considerable burden off property taxpayers, which I believe is an essential element in cutting back on the overall tax burden. In addition, [insert other examples]

